

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06975 051502Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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USIA-15 DRC-01 AGR-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

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R 051311Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9672

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS

SUBJ: GOI RESTRICTS USE OF ARAB LABOR IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. AT ITS WEEKLY MEETING SEPT 2, ISRAELI CABINET TOOK DECISION TO LIMIT USE OF ARAB LABOR BY ISRAELI SETTLERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ACCORDING TO GOI COMMUNIQUE ON CABINET SESSION, DECISION CONSISTED OF TWO PARTS: A) A DIRECTIVE TO ISRAELI MILITARY COMMANDERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO EXERCISE THEIR AUTHORITY TO LIMIT ACCESS BY ARABS TO ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS; AND B) A REQUEST TO AGRICULTURE MINISTRY AND TO SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH AGENCY TO TAKE ALL MEASURES AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO ENSURE "SELF-LABOR" IN EXISTING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. WE BELIEVE CABINET DECISION RESULTED FROM SENSITIVITY ON PART MRS MEIR AND DEFMIN DAYAN TO USE OF BEDUINS FOR FARM LABOR BY ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH JUNCTION AREA. DURING AUG 7 VISIT TO AREA (TEL AVI 6282) BOTH MRS MEIR AND DAYAN LEVELLED SHARP CRITICISM AT MOSHAV SADOT SETTLERS FOR
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06975 051502Z

THEIR EXTENSIVE USE OF RAFAH BEDUINS WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED

FROM AREA FOR SEUCIRYT REASONS IN FEB 1972. SPEAKING TO
SETTLERS, DAYAN SAID "IF YOU EMPLOY ARABS OR BEDUINS, YOU NO
LONGER FULFILL THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU WERE ALLOWED TO SETTLE
HERE--TO BE A SECURITY BUFFER ZONE."

3. APART FROM RAFAH JUNCTION AREA, ONLY OTHER SETTLEMENT IN
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHERE USE OF ARAB LABOR IS CONSIDERED A
PROBLEM BY GOI IS AT WEST BANK SETTLEMENT OF KIRYAT ARBA.
DURING RECENT VISITS THERE DAYAN AND HISTADRUT GENERAL
SECRETARY BENAHAARON WERE ANGERED TO FIND THAT KIRYAT ARABA
RESIDENTS WERE USING CHEAP ARAB LABOR IN SETTLEMENT'S WORKSHOPS.
BEN AHARON ACCUSED SETTLERS OF EXPLOITING ARAB LABORERS WHILE
DAYAN FELT THAT EMPLOYMENT OF ARAB LABORERS RAN CONTRARY TO
PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOI ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES.

4. COMMENT: IT IS IRONIC THAT GOI SHOULD CRACK DOWN ON USE OF
ARAB LABOR BY ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHILE
AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS WITHIN ISRAEL'S 1967 BORDERS MAKE
EXTENSIVE USE OF ARABS FROM GAZA AND WEST BANK FOR FIELD WORK.
ZIONIST PRINCIPLE OF NOT USING HIRED LABOR IN JEWISH
AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS WAS REINFORCED WITH RESPECT TO
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY CABINET DECISION BUT PROBABLY WEAKENED
WITHIN GREEN LINE SINCE NET EFFECT OF DECISION MAY BE TO INCREASE
TO SMALL EXTENT NUMBER OF ARABS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
EMPLOYED WITHIN ISRAEL.
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